

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Moderator: Aimee Rosenow
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11:00 a.m. ET

Operator: Good morning my name is (Stephanie) and I will be your conference operator today. At this time I would like to welcome everyone to the Statewide Population Health call. All lines have been placed on mute to avoid any background noise. After the speakers' remarks there will be a question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question during this time, simply press star then the number one on your telephone keypad. If you would like to withdraw your question press the pound key. Thank you. Aimee Rosenow, you may begin your conference

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you, (Stephanie). Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the June Statewide Population Health call. I am Aimee Rosenow with the Office of Communications here at KDHE. This morning we do have a full agenda. And we actually have quite a few new voices that you'll be hearing from some of our new staff with their bureaus to give an update. Dr. Moser will be joining us in just a few minutes. So for our first update today we have Myron Gunsalus with our Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories. (Myron).

(Myron Gunsalus): Good morning everybody it's good to be on the call. Lori Boline is usually here with us on our statewide call, but she is travelling on business this week. So as the lab director I am happy to give you an update on what's going on in the Health and Environmental Laboratories. Just a couple of things, mostly to bring to your awareness: if there is any sort of need for a correction on sample submission, we are now using a fax sample submission correction form. So you may be getting those and will be asked to fill those out, sign off on them and send them back. This is to ensure a consistent mechanism of making sure

that the data we receive is reported as well as accurate. And that those of you who are actually on the frontlines and have contact with the patient, are getting to know are sharing the data is correct. One other thing is if your facility is still using two sided universal sample submission forms that state form is used.

Please feel free to contact our office, contact our laboratory and request some of the new forms they are single sided they have a little better information of oriented to the new linen system that we're using. So we're would appreciate you, we have plenty of those so feel free to give us a call and get the new forms. And then finally as we you know the technology changes and new opportunities arise for testing we will periodically be sending out notifications. We do anticipate changing and testing protocols or algorithms, so nothing specific to report this month on that. But I did want to let you know that to be looking for letters that will identify any changes that may be coming up over the next few months. So that's all I have from the lab.

Aimee Rosenow: Great thank you very much, (Myron). Next we'll hear from Debi Nelson with our Bureau of Family Health.

(Debi Nelson): Good morning. This is the first time I participated in this so I am excited to be here. Hopefully you have received emails from me introducing the webinars that we have now started. The webinars are to allow the child care providers a chance for us to reach out to them during hours when they're not providing care to the children. And there's an opportunity for us to actually go through the process of how to register, to do their renewal application online, how to pay for their renewal application online, and just the complete process, since we quit mailing out the renewal packets this year. We're getting more phone calls because we now send out a renewal postcard reminding them that it's time to renew. And we provide them options to renew and one of those is to call us to help with their online applications. Well we are getting lots of calls and we thought if we could reach out and provide an evening time for them to join us so that we can show them exactly where to even go to get on to the portal. How to register, how to view their information, how to make changes, how to make a payment, how to add attachments just the whole process, that

we're hoping it will help down the road in reducing the number of calls that we receive.

So far, we've had two webinars. We have two more that are scheduled in July. And I probably will be sending out another email to all the health departments just letting them know that the two will be coming up. And if anyone has any suggestions on how we can reach out to the providers to help them, I am open to that. So that's about it.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you, (Debi). And next we have an update from Ashley Muninger with our Bureau of Community Health Systems.

(Ashley): Good morning. The State Office of Rural Health is hosting a series of population health webinars this year. Each webinar we keep to no more than 30 minutes and links over the lunch hour. And each one features a different program or service that impacts population health in the state. The next webinar in the series is scheduled for Wednesday July 9th from 12 to 12:30. During this webinar participants will learn about the Kansas perinatal quality collaborative. And state perinatal quality collaborative is a network of perinatal care providers and public health professionals who have a broad range of expertise in maternal and child health.

Members are committed to improving care and outcomes for Kansas newborns and mothers by advancing evidence based clinical practices and processes. The Kansas collaborative was formed in 2012 and has been working since then to identify and launch a quality improvement project. They've selected exclusive breast feeding as the focus of their first project. This webinar will provide a great opportunity to learn more about this collaborative and how you can become involved. Again it's going to be held on Wednesday July 9th at 12 o'clock. We'll send a [link to register](#) for the webinar after this call and we'll also be able to record it if you're unable to attend. Thanks.

Aimee Rosenow: OK, thank you, Ashley. And next we have an update from our TB program and Phil Griffin is here to share that with us.

(Phil Griffin): Good morning, everybody. You should know, on May 7th we sent out an update on the recommendation regarding the break laws and for screening and treating tuberculosis infection. That announcement is on our website as well on the front page in the yellow box where they've become familiar with those shortage announcements. Basically that announcement released all the restrictions but also included in that are several caveats for people's awareness. As you know the shortage basically went on for a year. So there are lots of questions that are coming in now about what to do with people that were deferred during the year. And basically because they went for an entire year of what I am recommending is the people just pick up where they left off and as if it's the next annual time. However there have been a lot from providers throughout that a lot of the old regulations, a lot of the old guidelines and rules and policies that have been in place in a variety of different facilities are very antiquated and really are not applicable any longer. And so we're really encouraging people to look at their own internal policies Dr. (Moser) and I are looking at different regulations that we need to consider, not only within KDHE but as well across the other agencies, which we might want to offer some suggestions for revising them to make them more present in real, best practice today. Probably the biggest thing to deal with right now is healthcare workers and the policies that are in the facilities. In the guidelines, there's a link in that document to the 2005 healthcare workers and protection of TB control and healthcare facilities.

And in that document it very clearly states that if you're a low risk entity you should only be doing screening upon hire and then as needed beyond that. There's only one healthcare facility in the state of Kansas that ever meets anything higher than a medium risk based on that assessment. They, the policy should be written that they do an annual assessment the tool is in that MNWR and base their screening policies on that. I have talked with the healthcare facilities regulators and they are all in agreement. As long as their policies within the facilities are written that way they can get by with only doing screening upon entry, or screening upon hire.

And that's important because low risk testing with tuberculosis creates more false positives, and so we really want to curtail that. The other institutions that are getting a lot of questions right now are the schools and primarily K

through 12s and their policies as well. The state statutes from the Department of Education require that every new employee entering into the education system have to have an initial health screening that clears them of tuberculosis. That is the only state requirement. All of the annual testing that goes on bi-annually or tri-annually is all based on local board policy. So you may have the opportunity, as the local health department, to consult with school boards on updating those policies as well. A recommendation again, in those populations, is they only do screening upon hire and they do not need to continue those annual policies.

Again most of those regulations are dependent upon local level policy and so there's a lot of opportunity to clean that up at this time. The other big thing going on is we are at the request of some local health departments are rolling out EpiTrax to the corrections facilities throughout the state the department of corrections. That is in the process of being rolled out now and everybody should be on board in EpiTrax probably about mid August. So if you have a state correctional facility in your county they will have access to corrections data. And basically what they will have access to is the data for the inmates throughout the system.

You will be able to see their data, they will not be able to see the outside county information. So this should help in the communication between the facilities and the counties. And some of the challenges that have gone on with the variety of investigations in the past, and that will apply not only with tuberculosis but with all of the other infections to be used as well. With the exception of STD and HIV and finally we are getting the legacy data from Eds and Hoc updated into EpiTrax should be out in the next couple of weeks. And with that if you'll remember when Eds crashed several years ago there was a loss being able to get to lab data and medication data within the Ed system. That data obviously is not going to be there because it was never entered, but there is some backup information. You'll be at least now able to find out if there is a past history of tuberculosis cases disease or infection in the systems and if there's not the information you need there. You can continue to contact our office and we'll be able to fill in what gaps we have information on. And I think that's pretty much it.

Aimee Rosenow: OK thank you so much, Phil. That's a great update from our TB program. And next we're joined by Dr. (Cathy Taylor). She's here to give an update from the Bureau of Oral Health.

(Cathy Taylor): Good morning. I am happy to be here to discuss some of the activities going on in the Bureau of Oral Health. On May 30th, approximately 60 stakeholders from across Kansas met at the Kansas Historical Museum in Topeka to map out the goals for our oral health plan. The summit was sponsored by the Bureau of Oral Health along with Oral Health Kansas and Secretary Moser kicked off the day. And then everyone broke into groups addressing education, financing, collaboration and workforce issues affecting the oral health needs of our state. The ideas and strategies and work plans were prioritized and will be compiled on an interactive website to be up and running this fall. So please continue to watch our website as well as Oral Health Kansas website for our 2015 - 2018 statewide plan. Our Bureau has also had the opportunity to visit and meet with dental providers across the state. We have visited GraceMed, E.C. Tyree, and Hunter Health Clinics in Wichita. And this week we plan to meet with the Salina Family HealthCare Center, Community Health Ministry and Wamego, Konza Prairie health center Junction City and the Douglas County Clinics and more.

So we will be able to meet and discuss issues with these providers and administrators and tour their dental clinics as well. Our school screening and school sealant programs are in the process of entering data for our statewide school screening consumer programs for the 2013 - 2014 school year. And thus far we have data for approximately 130,000 plus children across the state that we have screened in schools for the presence of decay and urgent need for care. We hope to have this data published by later on this summer. And that's about all.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you so much. And next we have an update from our Bureau of Health Promotion, so Ginger Park is with us to share an update.

(Ginger Park): Thanks, Aimee. Safe Kids Kansas, KDHE and the Kansas Highway Patrol will be distributing a joint news release next week on summer fire safety. The release focus is on safety tips for fireworks, grilling and campfires. We know

that historically fire burn emergency department visits peak in July. And suspect this is largely due to fireworks. In 2013, of the more than 30 percent of hospitals that responded to the survey they reported 133 injuries due to fireworks. So this is a good time to remind any patients about fireworks safety and the best safety tip is to go to a professional display.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you so much, Ginger. And now we have our Secretary and State Health Officer, Dr. Moser to share a few updates from KDHE .

Dr. (Mosier): Good morning. I appreciate everybody taking time to join us again this month. I apologize about being a little bit late. These periods during this time of year with the legislators out of town, you would think we have a lot more time, but it seems like we get busier with many meetings. And I first want to start out by saying congratulations to Johnson County Department of Health and Environment on their successful accreditation as a local health department. Good job and we look forward to additional county health departments as well as obviously the state health department moving forward on accreditation. I also want to say thanks again to KALHD and the local public health leadership awardees. I really enjoyed being in Wichita last week, and getting a chance to catch up with several of you. And, again, congratulations on leading by example in your leadership efforts. As I mentioned, and as you can tell from the conversations today, there are a lot of activities going on at KDHE. I did want to announce a couple of realignments. As you may be aware, I think we announced last month, Keri Bruffet, who was our director of the Division of Healthcare Finance, moved over to secretary of the Department for Aging and Disability Services. Dr. Susan Mosier, who is our Medicaid Director, is currently the acting director for the Division of Healthcare Finance.

We will also be hiring a legislative liaison. Many of you may have met our policy director in the past, Nathan Bainbridge. He's moved on into the private sector. And so we'll be announcing a new hire as our legislative liaison which can serve as a great source of information, as well as first point of contact for some of you who have any particular issues and want to find out who to reach within KDHE. They serve as a great point.

We've been working a lot on rolling out our health homes as part of KanCare. For many of you that have been involved in that, as you are aware, it's a little more sophisticated patient center medical home model. The first round is focusing on those with severe and persistent mental illness. That is still scheduled to rollout on July 1st. Additional chronic diseases will also be incorporated into that going forward and all that information is available on our KanCare website.

So if you haven't had a chance to really get up to speed on that, I would certainly recommend doing so. The reason I mentioned that is there are a lot of other activities at KDHE that tend to overlap. And I think gives us a great opportunity as we continue our focus on integrating primary care and public health or taking population health management forward in our work both at the state level and at the local level. Health homes are an example of that.

We've also been going around with the regional meetings talking about Healthy Kansas 2020 and how our state public health improvement plan aligns with a lot of local efforts and where we may work together and also where we may need to sharpen our focus. One of the new initiatives that we will be working on as a state is the COIIN Project. COIIN stands for Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network to decrease infant mortality.

As you know since 2009, we've had a blue ribbon panel on infant mortality and we've been active in a number of areas. To look at how do we improve preconception care, pre-natal care, and not only deliveries, but also postpartum care. And I think the COIIN collaborative gives us an opportunity to take a lot of the work that's been done today by variety of stakeholders, and begin to develop a more focused strategic plan to move out across into our communities. To complement what's going on with the March of Dimes collaborative and our AMCHP compendium work that's currently ongoing.

So stay tuned for that. I think our meeting at the national level will be the end of July. We've got not only KDHE involved with that, but several stakeholders including March of Dimes and some of our folks that have served on our Blue Ribbon Panel on Infant Mortality. So we hope to find

additional ways and resources. I know that's important as we go forward to address this important issue in Kansas. So that's kind of a view of all we've been working on and I am sure I am leaving many other important things out, but I appreciate again your time for being here with us today.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you very much, Dr. (Moser). And now we have an update from our Preparedness Program. We have Jamie Hemler here to share those updates with us today.

(Jamie): Thanks, Aimee. Good morning everyone. As a reminder, budget period two is coming to a close next Monday, the 30th. Please ensure all of your work plan deliverables are completed by then and that all preparedness funds are spent down as close to zero as possible. The fourth quarter reports are due July 15th, and with regard to the exercise requirement, all PHEP and HPP grantees must have completed an annual exercise by May 15th. After action reports and improvement plans are due from each grantee within 90 days of the exercise. Once these reports are received they will be reviewed and an email will be provided with feedback and a notice of approval or the need for additional information. All reports can be submitted to preparedness@kdheks.gov. If you have questions or need exercise assistance please contact Lisa Williams at (785) 296-1984 or lawilliams@kdheks.gov.

The 2014 – 2015 guidance document has been completed for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant and is located on a preparedness website under Local Health Department Resources.

The new community disease containment SOG template is being finalized and will be available on the KDHE preparedness site after August 1st. And MARC or the Mid-America Regional Council is offering ICS position specific courses in Kansas City. There's no charge for attending but registration is required. Priority registration is reserved for emergency services personnel within the MARC region and Missouri Region A. For more information, please see the Preparedness Program update from Friday, June 20th, or let us know if you would like the link sent to you.

Samantha Ramskill started with the Preparedness Program on Monday, June 9th. She has taken over K-SERV and KS-HAN responsibilities. For assistance related to those two systems as well as general technical assistance related to preparedness, please contact Sam at (785) 296-5459 or sramskill@kdheks.gov. Laura Ross is now on staff and has taken over the Strategic National Stockpile duties. Any questions related to mass dispensing or pertaining to the Strategic National Stockpile in general may be directed to her at (785) 296-7428 or lross@kdheks.gov. And that's all I have.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you very much. And now we have (Jane Shirley) with us to share an update from the Bureau of Community Health Systems.

(Jane Shirley): Thanks, (Aimee). I just wanted to make the announcement that we have a staffing change in our bureau. We have recently combined the position of the director for primary care in rural health, and have named Sara Roberts as the director of that combined program. I just want to let everyone know that that is a very recent change for us. Thanks, Aimee.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you, (Jane). And from the Office of Communications we have several updates for you today. I'd like to introduce (Sara Belfry) for our first update.

(Sara Belfry): Hey, everyone. I am just going to give a really quick update. I know a lot of you are aware of the measles cases going on in the Kansas City area. But I just wanted to kind of go over this. A couple of you have had suspected cases of measles and so just wanted to go over that communications protocol with you. For measles cases this summer, especially because there is such a large outbreak nationally, KDHE will take the lead role communicating if you have a confirmed case. So once you have a suspected case feel free to email either Aimee or myself or just communications@kdheks.gov and we'll be happy to work with you. And make sure that we're all on the same page with the news release and we'll make sure that you guys know before we send out the news release and get your approval on everything. But we'll be the ones taking the lead on sending out that news release. So I just wanted to let you all know, give you a heads up on that.

And for any kind of large outbreaks that are statewide like this we, KDHE, will be the lead agency communicating the confirmed cases. So just a reminder on that. Just wanted to give you guys a heads up since we may have more measles cases this summer. I know we've had a couple more suspected cases. Just keep us in a loop and we're happy to help you. If you have any questions feel free to email us or call us.

Aimee Rosenow: OK, thank you so much, (Sara). And from our Extreme Weather Events Workgroup, we have developed a toolkit regarding extreme heat. So the Extreme Weather Events Workgroup is made up of several partners which includes the National Weather Service, Wildlife Parks and Tourism, the Department of Emergency Management and several other partners. In working with them we've put together an extreme heat toolkit which is now online. And the purpose of this toolkit is to provide information to local governments and public health professionals about preparing for and responding to extreme heat events.

So the focus is on Kansas examples and the processes and describes implementable steps and strategies, to prevent morbidity and mortality from extreme heat events at the local level. The goal of the toolkit is to increase Kansas' preparedness for extreme heat events and provide information and resources to local governments and public health departments to create their own heat response plan. So you can find the toolkit on the Bureau of Environmental Health webpage which is at www.kdheks.gov/eeh/extreme_heat.htm. So you click on the extreme heat toolkit banner and the toolkit will be right there. You can definitely contact us again if you have any questions about that. If you send any communications on extreme heat we're happy to help with that as well.

The other update we have for you from our Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics is in regards to another toolkit that is available for you. You may have seen in [this month's Epi Updates](#) that there is a now a disease prevention for fairs and festivals toolkit. It's designed for fair and festival managers and public health officials to understand the considerations that should be made when organizing and operating a fair or a festival. So the focus is on preventing zoonotic diseases as well as some food safety

information. The toolkit was sent to everyone, I think, via email. So you should have that. If not, definitely check out the Epi Updates article on that. And also what's provided through Kansas State Research and Extension offices. So the toolkit was really developed to help you all coordinate on a local level with those events that are occurring. So our local health departments can get with the local fair boards or other groups that might be putting on these types of events.

If you have questions regarding the information in the toolkit, you can contact Dr. (Ingrid Garrison) as she's our state public health veterinarian. And her phone number is 785-296-1059 and that's all of the updates we have for you. So now we'd like to open it up for the question and answer session, (Stephanie).

Operator: At this time I would like to remind everyone in order to ask a question please press star then the number one on your telephone keypad, we'll pause for a moment to compile the Q&A roster. Again if you would like to ask a question please press star one on your telephone keypad. Your first question comes from (Leanne Bins) your line is open.

Aimee Rosenow: Hi (Leanne).

Operator: (Leanne Bins) your line is open.

(Marvo Brandt): Hello this is the (inaudible) county health department (Leanne Bins) and (Marvo Brandt) this is (Marvo). And I have a question will we be able to get a paper copy or email of Phil Griffin's information.

Aimee Rosenow: I can answer that for you actually all of the calls will be provided in transcript form on our website. So that will be available, all of this information that you're hearing today will be available out on the office of local health website. So we can send out that link once that's out there.

(Marvo Brandt): OK thank you.

Phil Griffin: And if you're talking about the form or the alert that went out on May 7th it's on the website as well in the yellow box on (Keith's) page.

(Marvo Brandt): OK thank you.

Dr. Moser: Thank you (Leanne).

Operator: Again if you would like to ask a question please press star one on your telephone keypad. And there are no further questions at this time.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you (Stephanie) and again all of the information that we heard today is available online in the transcripts. Once we have that we'll, we'll get that out to you as well, so you can follow up on any of the information that you've heard today. As a reminder our next Statewide Population Health call will be on July 22nd at 10 am. So again thank you all very much for joining us this morning and we'll look forward to hearing from you again next month.

Operator: Thank you this concludes today's conference call you may now disconnect.

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